



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## **SBA LENDING IN ORANGE, RIVERSIDE AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES INCREASES 11%**

**Santa Ana, Calif.** – The Santa Ana District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) increased its lending to the small business communities of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties during Fiscal Year 2007, the period from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007.

Through the SBA's 7(a) Loan Guaranty Program and 504 Program, a total of 3,329 loans with a dollar value of \$890.8 million were made in Fiscal Year 2007, an increase of 11.3 percent over last year in total number of loans. In Orange County a total of 1654 loans were made for \$450.6 million, an increase of 6.6 percent in the number of loans. In Riverside County 924 loans were made for \$209 million, an increase of 25.7 percent in the number of loans. In San Bernardino County 751 loans were made for \$231.5 million, an increase of 6.7 percent in the number of loans.

The SBA's Santa Ana District was the leading District in the nation for the number of Section 504 loans with 614 for nearly \$625 million. For all loan programs, the District was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation in total dollars loaned and 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation for total number of loans.

In other SBA program areas nearly 35,000 entrepreneurs received business counseling and technical assistance through SBA's resource partners SCORE "Counselors to America's Small Business", the Inland Empire Women's Business Center and the Small Business Development Center program. Firms in SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program in the Santa Ana District portfolio received nearly \$64.6 million in government contracts with 77 contracts issued. There are 205 firms in the District's 8(a) program which provides management and technical assistance, networking and federal contracting opportunities to socially and economically disadvantaged businesses.

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